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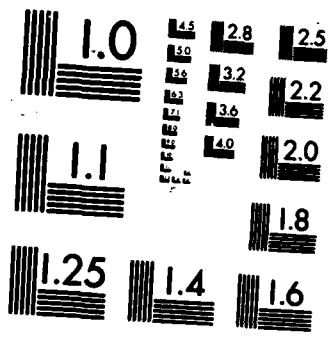
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FINAL REPORT
to the
US Army Research Office

by

The University of Texas at Dallas
P.O.Box 830688
Richardson, TX 75083-0688
(214) 690-2864

Describing Activities of the

FIRST INTERNATIONAL LASER SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Supported in part by Grant: DAAG29-85-G-0122
Principal Investigator: Carl B. Collins
Title: Professor of Physics
Admin. Unit: School of Natural Science
and Mathematics
Effective Date and Duration: 1 September 1985 thru
August 31, 1986
Amount of Contract: \$6,000

CERTIFICATION

"I certify that funds provided by the Army Research Office under Grant No. DAAG29-85-G-0122 were expended in accordance with the provisions of the grant and that required scientific reports have been delivered to the US Army Research Office."

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

The first International Laser Science (ILS) Conference was convened 18-22 November 1985 at the University of Texas at Dallas as the annual technical meeting of the Laser Science Topical Group of the American Physical Society (APS) with cosponsorship of the Optical Society of America (OSA). For this first year the Conference Chair was held by Professor Carl B. Collins of the host institution, who was responsible for overall coordination of the meeting. Program Chairman Professor William C. Stwalley of the University of Iowa was responsible for assembling the program with the assistance of a committee of 95 members from 13 countries.

As the name implies, the ILS Conference focuses upon laser science: lasers themselves and the interaction of the laser photons with matter (spectroscopy and photoprocesses). The primary purpose is to survey annually both these core areas and a wide variety of selected applications in virtually every other area of science and technology.

Designed to initiate an annual series, the first ILS Conference was an important undertaking and will prove to be a benchmark against which future meetings will be measured. The explosion of interest far exceeded our initial projections and expectations. Favorable recognition has been forthcoming from virtually every laser organization and mirrors the enthusiastic reception from the 498 registered participants. The international scope of the conference was evidenced by the fact that the component of foreign participants comprised over 10% of the

registrants and included scientists from countries throughout the world including the USSR, France, Germany, Japan, and the People's Republic of China. It is a great pleasure to report these proven successes for which partial support was granted by the Army.

Not just one more laser meeting to be added to an overcrowded agenda, the ILS Conference series proved itself to meet needs of the professional community in laser science in unique ways. Providing broad annual coverage, it does not reject meritorious contributions because of limitations on the size of the program. The bound proceedings, a copy of which is enclosed with these reports, provide a useful and permanent record of the international state-of-the-art for each year. Abstracts of the papers appeared in the November 1985 Bulletin of the APS, a copy of which appears as an appendix and attests to the extent and quality of the scientific program. Most importantly the ILS is cost-effective, with registration fees about half those of other laser conferences for supported professionals and less than 25% for unsupported educators and students, thus making it possible for virtually anyone with an interest in laser science to attend.

Because of the high standards imposed by the Organizing and Program Committees upon the acceptance of papers, this conference provided an optimal format for the dissemination of results in laser science among workers in the field, many of whom are Army Contractors. A compact and profound perception was presented of the state-of-the-art which lies at the nucleus of many applications that are also of interest to the Army. Moreover, participation enabled Contractors to obtain a professional critique of

their own efforts as they became more aware of the field in which they work.

To be held concurrently with the OSA Annual Meeting and the OSA topical meeting on Multiple Excitations of Atoms, the next ILS Conference will be in Seattle, Washington on 20-24 October 1986 at the Pacific Science Center complex.

The support so generously provided by the Army enabled the organizers to initiate a broad-based conference with extremely high technical quality and to keep the registration fee within the means of all those wishing to attend. It is a pleasure to report that preparations for the Second ILS indicate that these proven values will be maintained in future years.

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